Grade 4½

Music for String Orchestra

Symphony No. 29

First Movement

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Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Arranged by

Robert Debbaut

INSTRUMENTATION

Violin I 8
Violin II 8
Viola 5
Cello 5
Bass 5

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Notes

The distinguished British musicologist Stanley Sadie characterized Mozart's *Symphony No. 29* as "a landmark... personal in tone, indeed perhaps more individual in its combination of an intimate, chamber music style with a still fiery and impulsive manner." It seems only natural that such an important work would come to find a home in the educational library of Carl Fischer as an introduction to young string players for both its playful melodies and bright musical brilliance. This first of the four movements is in the sonata form typical of Mozart's early symphonies. Its graceful, yet playful first theme features an octave drop more associated with a loud spontaneous "guffaw" than with polite salon conversation. In the Fall of 1773 Mozart had just returned to Salzburg from a Viennese journey with his father, Leopold, to visit old friends and to attempt to find him some work. While he failed to gain any commissions from this journey, Mozart was introduced to the so-called "sturm und drang" (storm and stress) compositional style then being penned by a man who would become a mentor to him, Franz Joseph Haydn. While this work certainly does bear some influence of Haydn, music's most jocular jester, its original playful nature is pure Mozart, and a work that is treasured by this arranger as high as any of his other numerous masterworks.

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About the Arranger

Robert Debbaut has led orchestras and opera companies in the United States as well as in Central and North America, Asia and Europe.

Included among the many ensembles Robert Debbaut has conducted are the Chicago Chamber Orchestra, Chicago Philharmonic, Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra, Dearborn Symphony, Filharmonia Sudecka (Poland), Guatemala City Municipal Youth Orchestra, Hartford Symphony, International Symphony Orchestra (Canada), Kansas City Civic Orchestra, Kharkiv Philharmonic (Ukraine), Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, North Bohemian Philharmonic, Russia's Great Novgorod Philharmonie, Saint Petersburg Classical Orchestra, and Yaroslavl Symphony, Shanghai Conservatory Orchestra, and the National Symphony of Guatemala where he has been a frequent guest conductor during the past two decades including the honor of conducting their 75th anniversary concert in July, 2019.

Throughout his career Robert Debbaut has been an arranger and composer. His only composition teacher was the legendary wind composer Claude T. Smith. Dr. Debbaut's many works include *Flight* and *Running*, both for large orchestra, *Suicide Requiem* for SATB chorus and orchestra, and *A Trilogy of Joy* for SSAA chorus and piano (a setting of the words of Pulitzer-Prize Winning poet Sara Teasdale). He has arranged the works of Afro-Caribbean violinist/composer Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, Afro-Cuban violinist/composer Joseph White, Viktor Kosenko, a pioneer for music education in the USSR, and the music of his beloved Mozart.
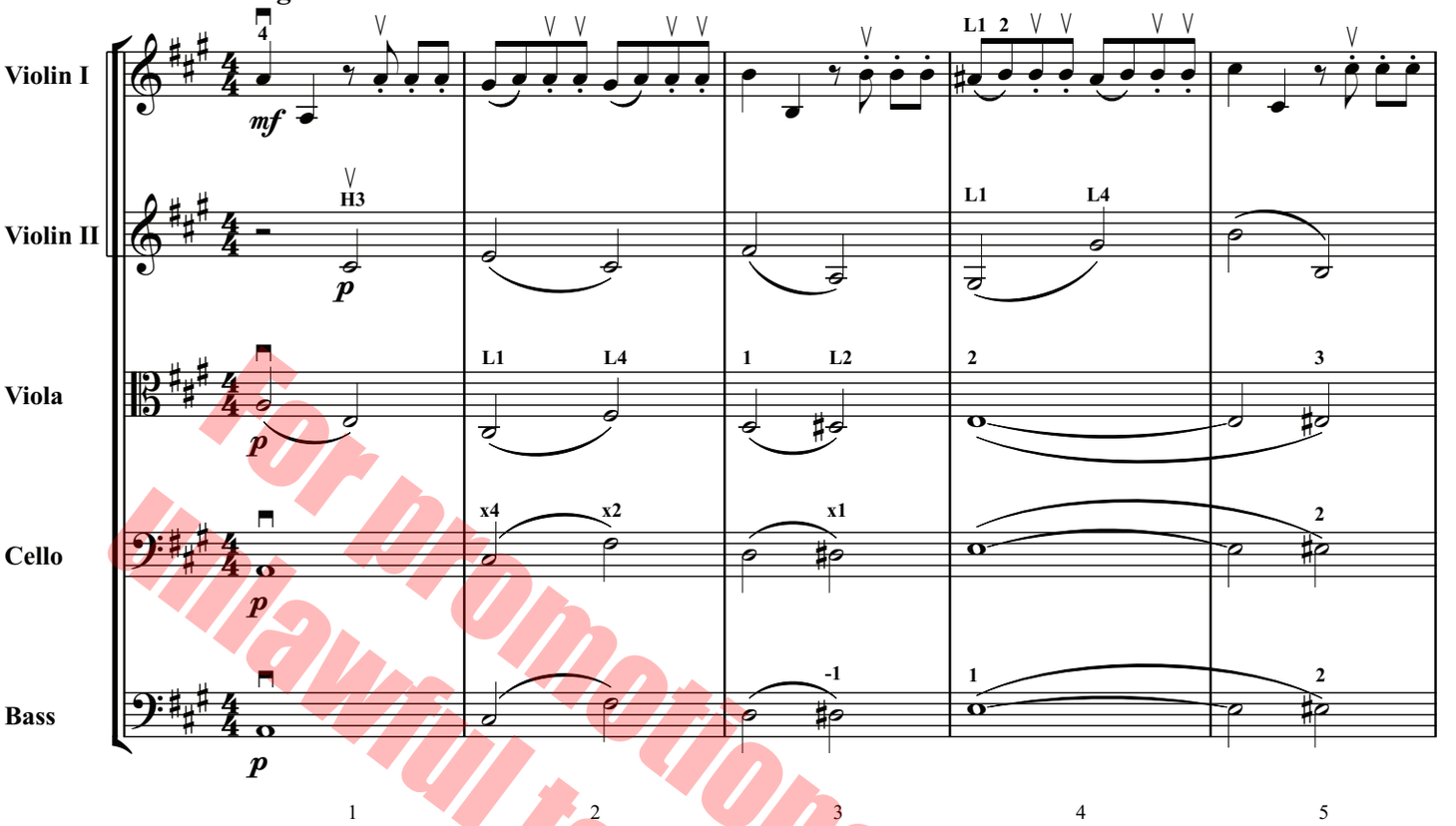
Robert Debbaut holds the degree Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting from the University of Michigan where he was the first American conductor to be Fellow in Conducting. He also studied at the David Oistrakh Festival in Estonia, the International Conducting Workshop in Prague, the Oregon Bach Festival and the Tanglewood Music Center where he was the first recipient of the Maurice Abravanel Award and in the last conducting class of Leonard Bernstein. His teachers and mentors include Maurice Abravanel, Neeme Järvi, Helmuth Rilling and his principal teacher Gustav Meier.

Symphony No. 29
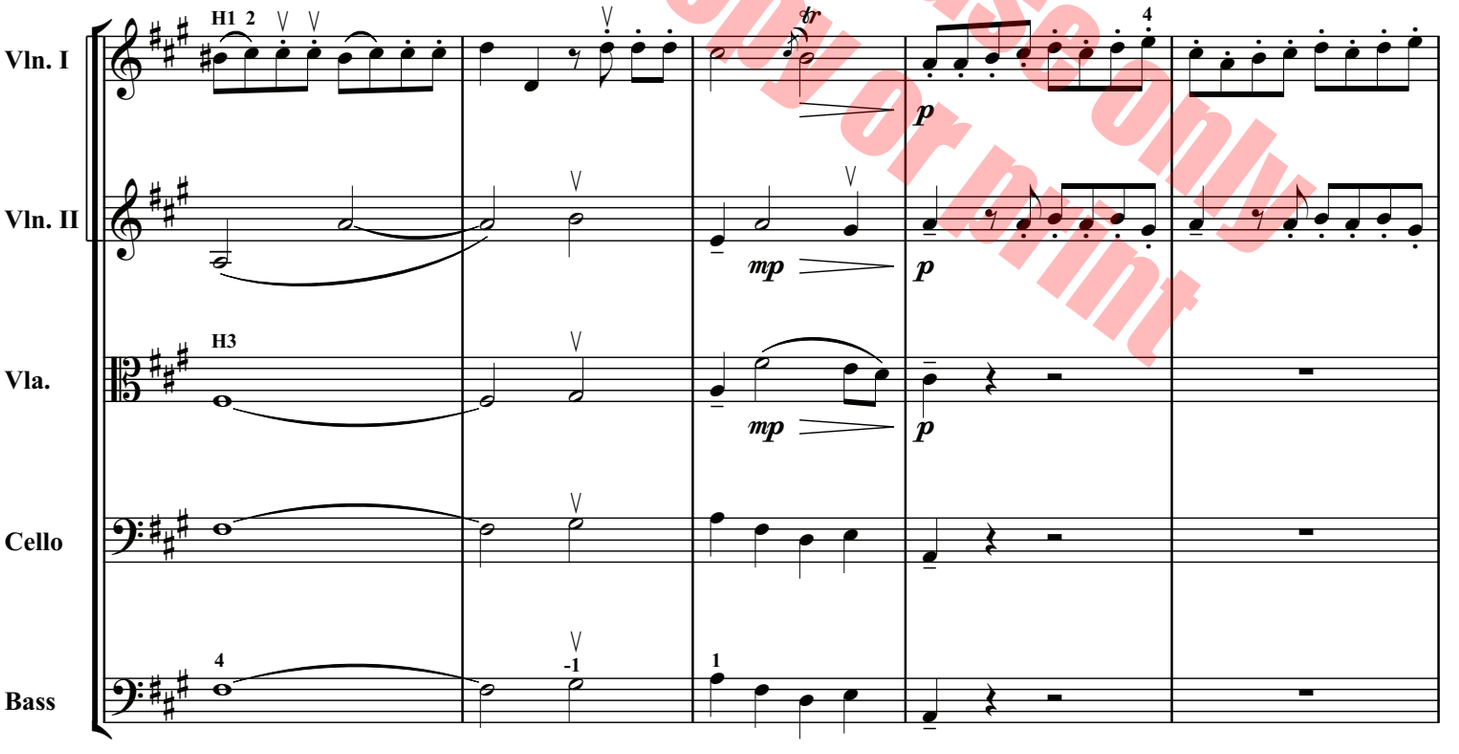
First Movement

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART
Arranged by Robert Debbaut

Allegro moderato ♩ = 132
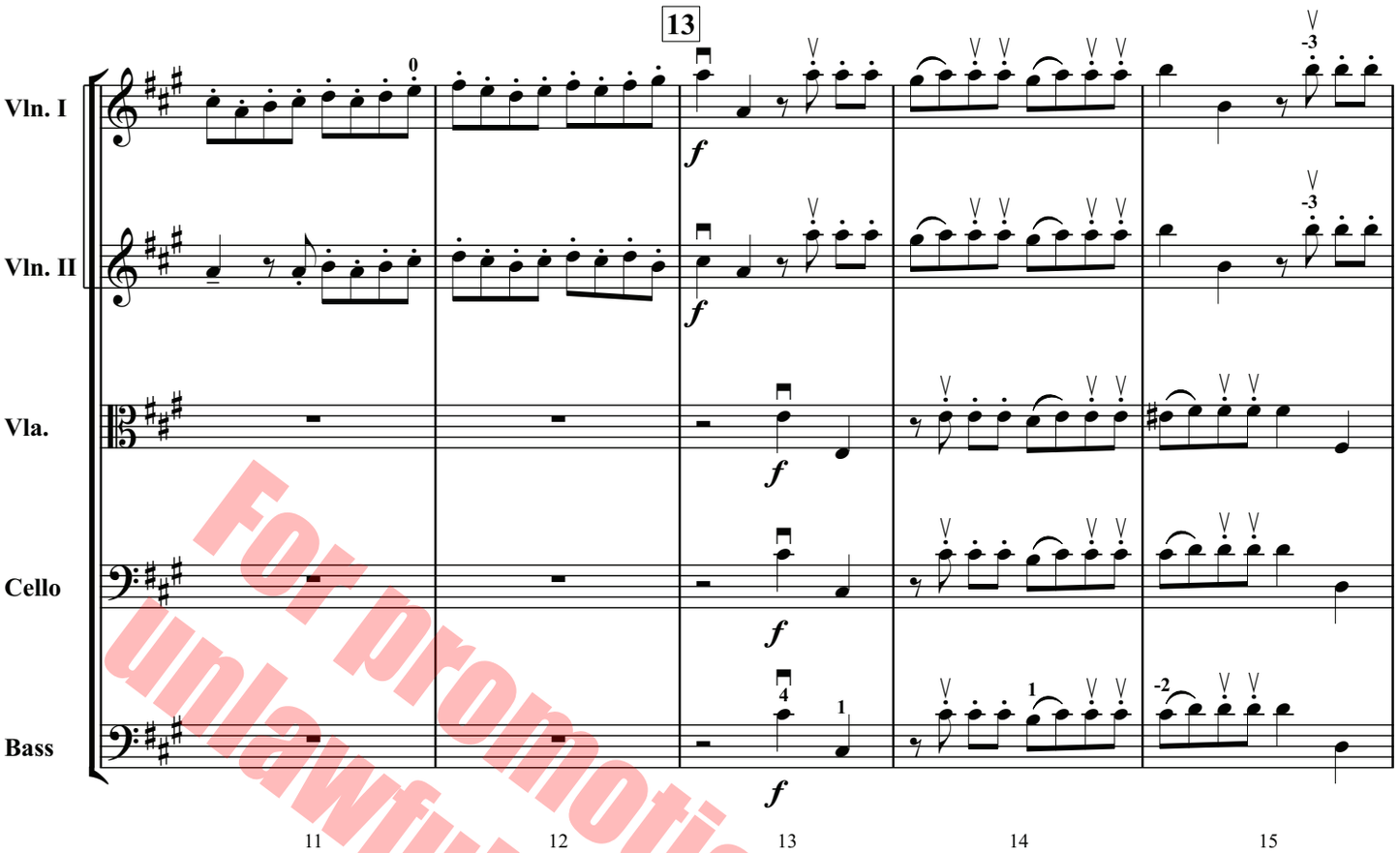


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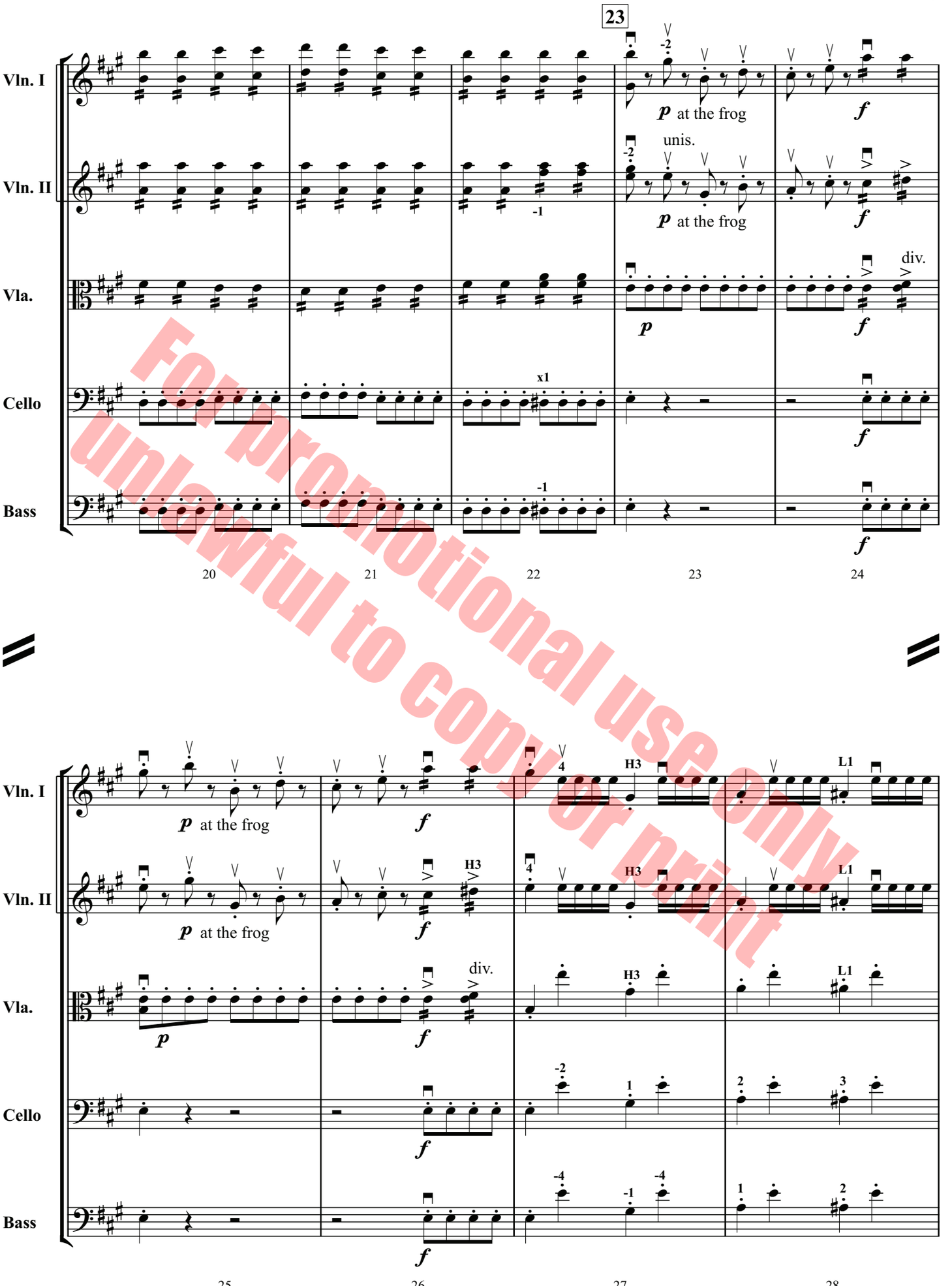
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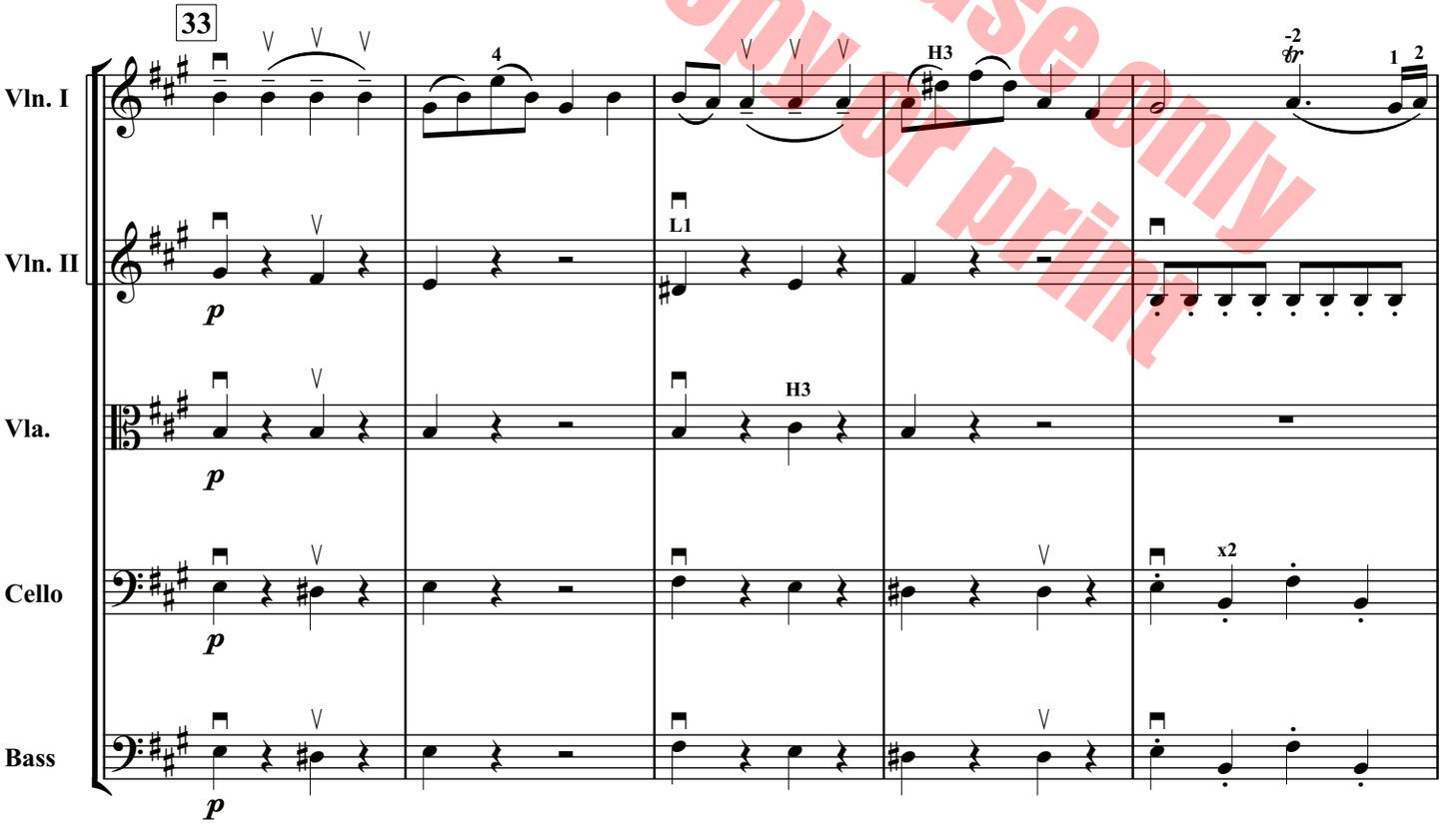




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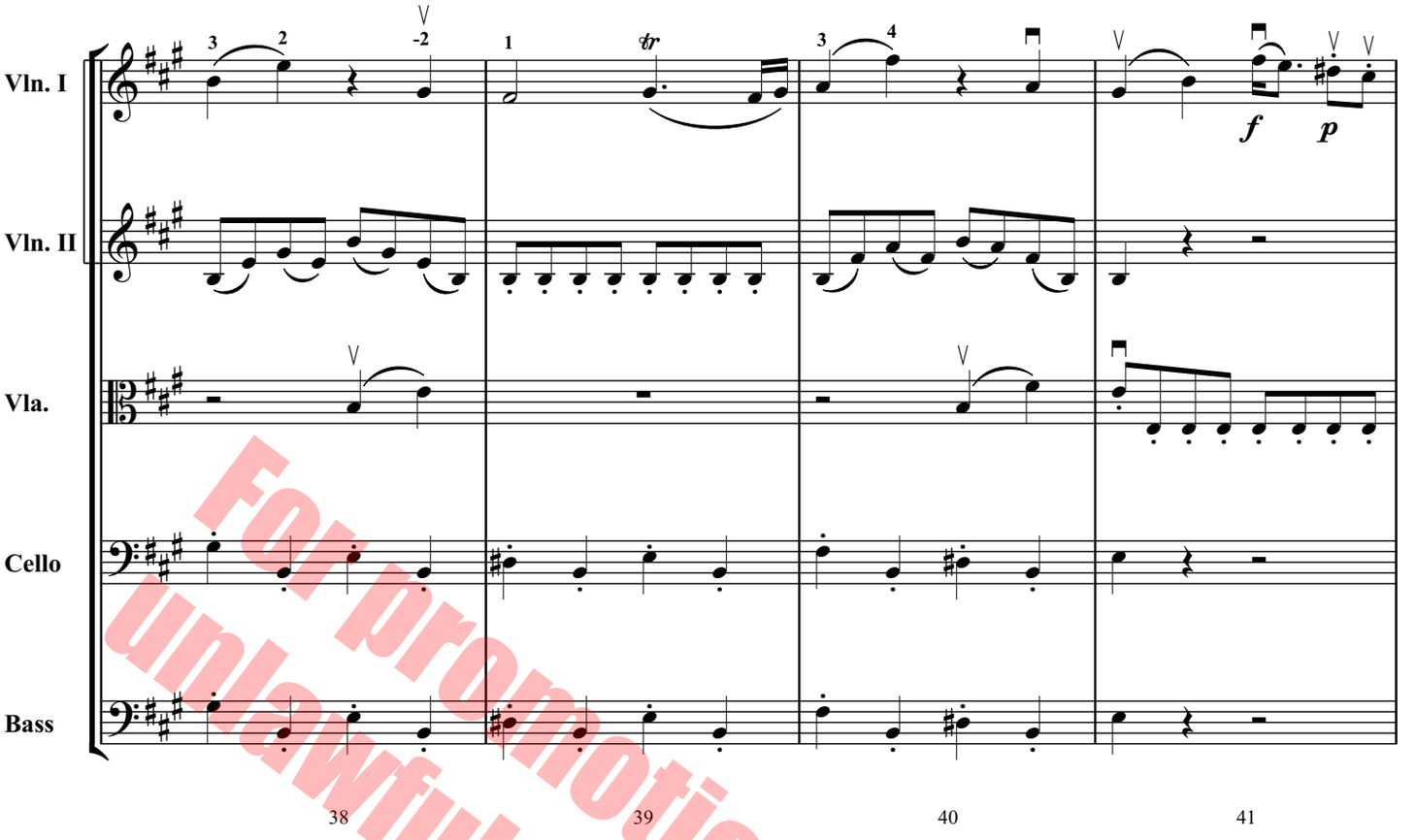


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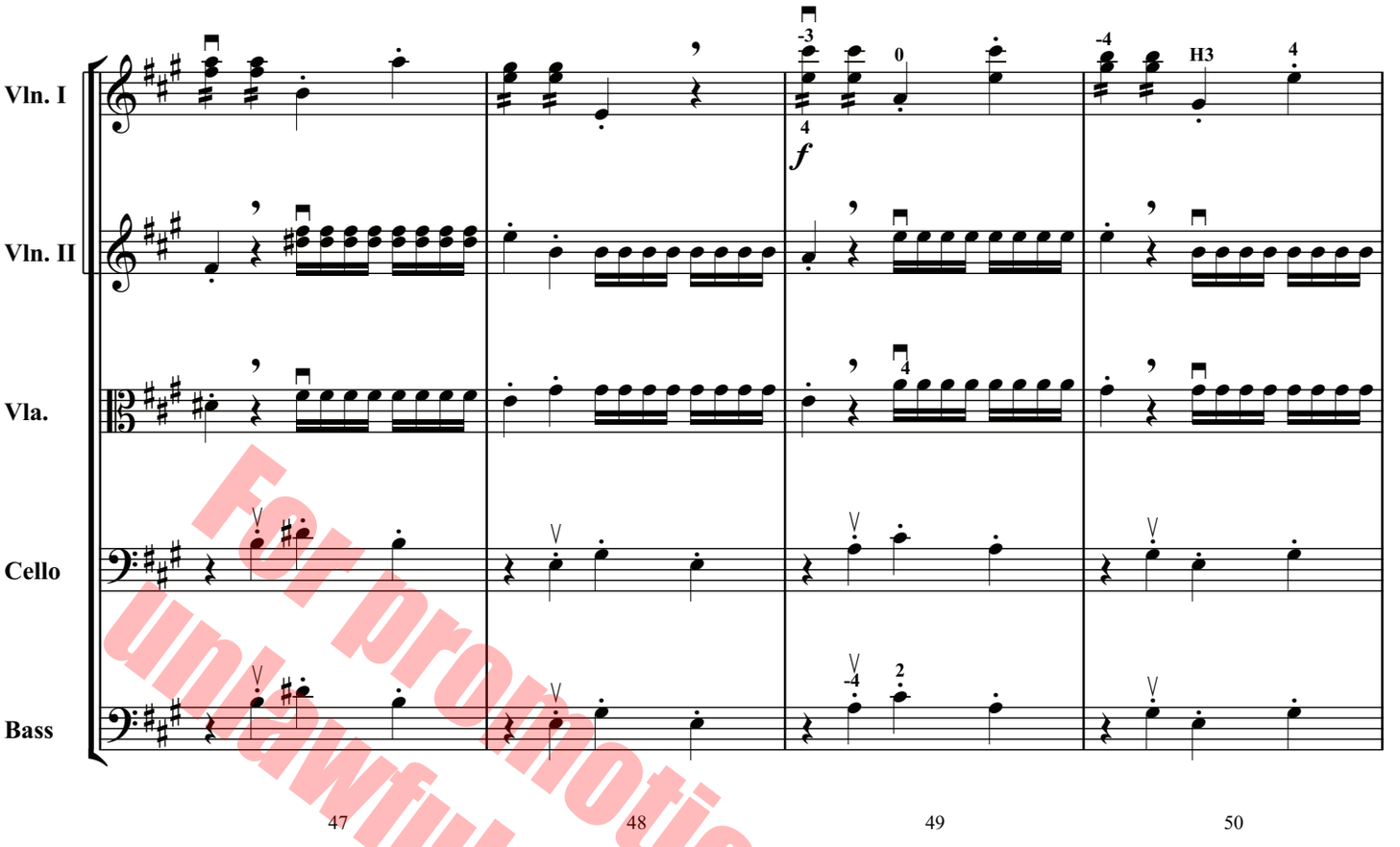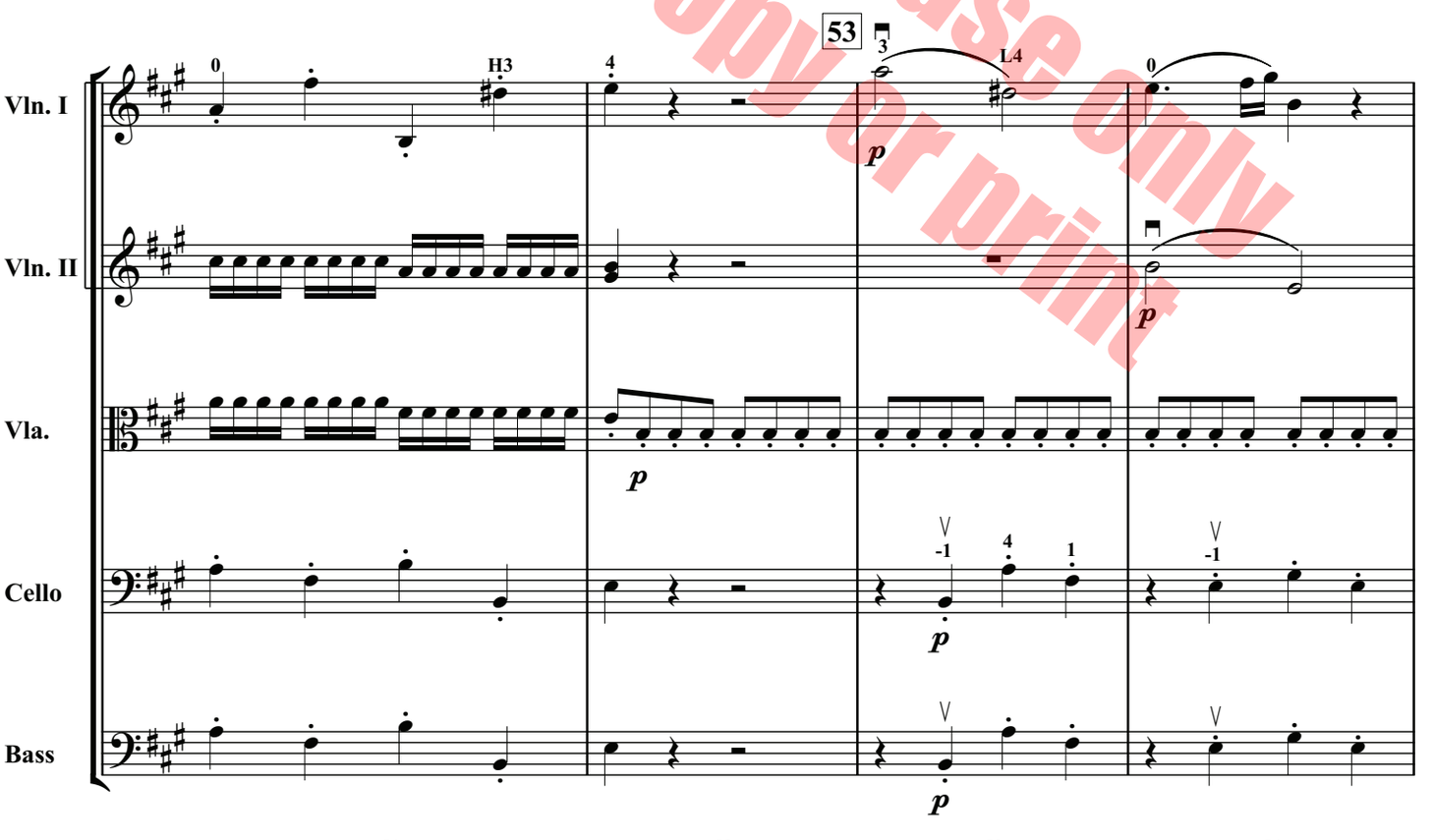




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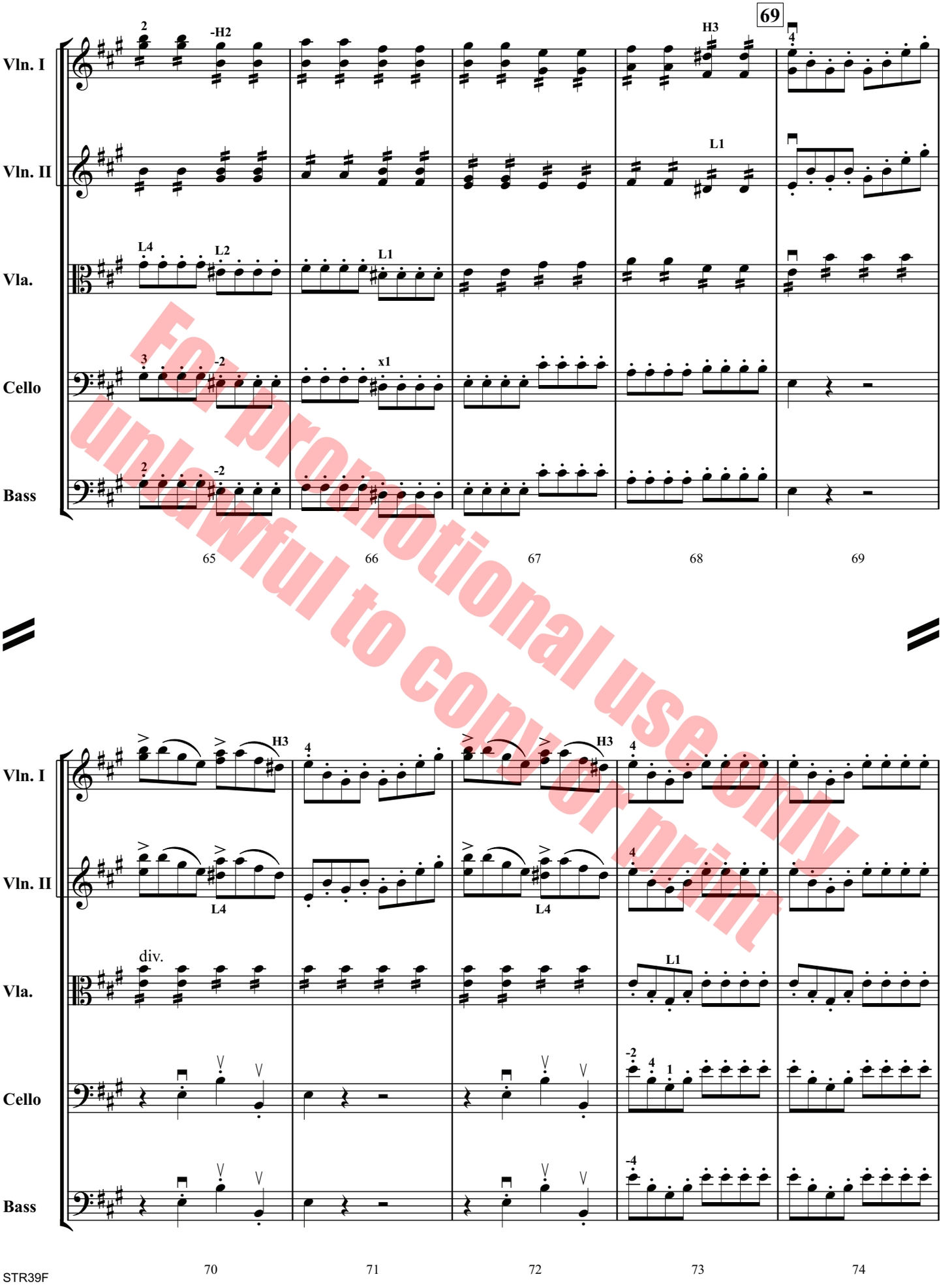




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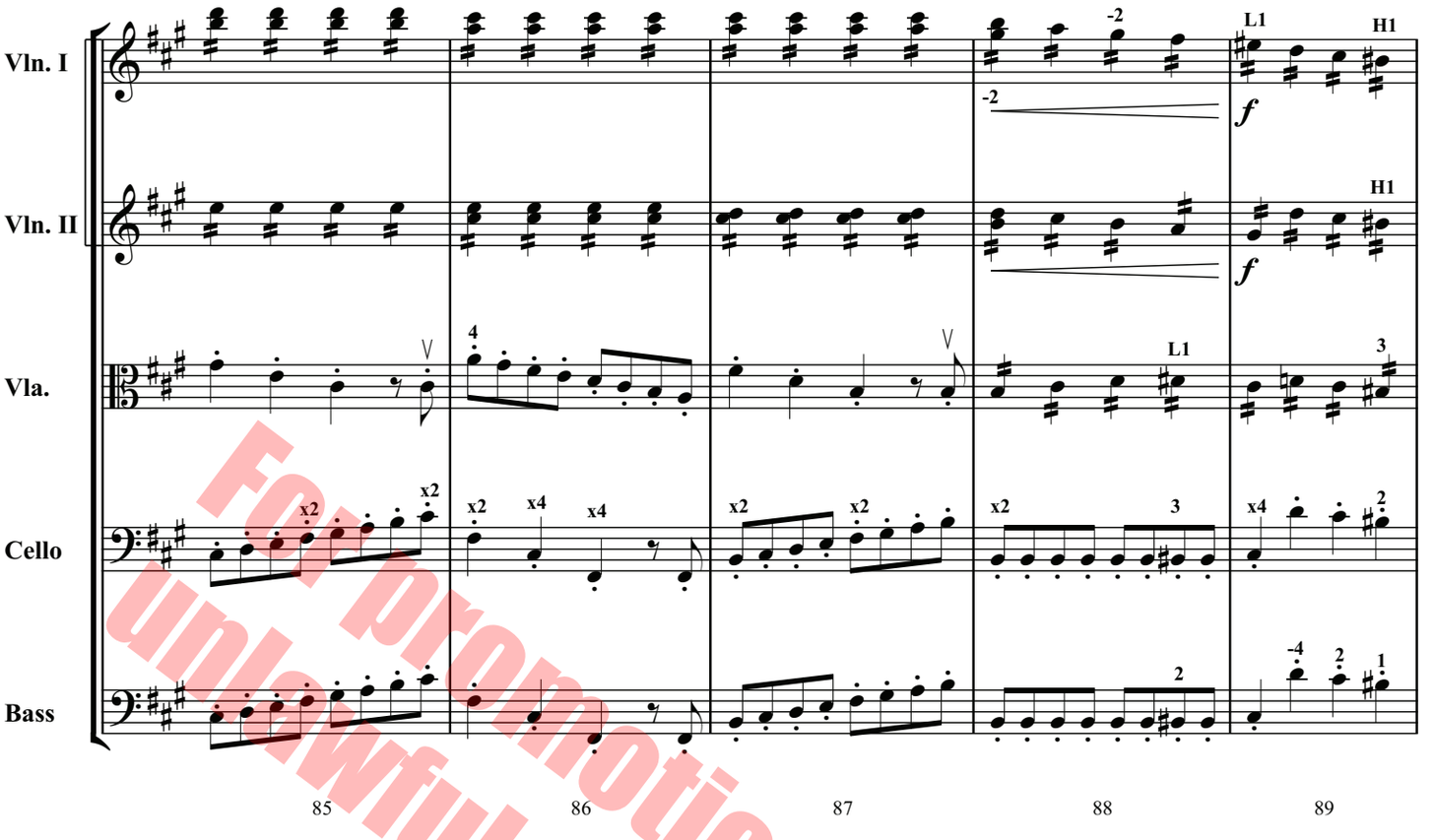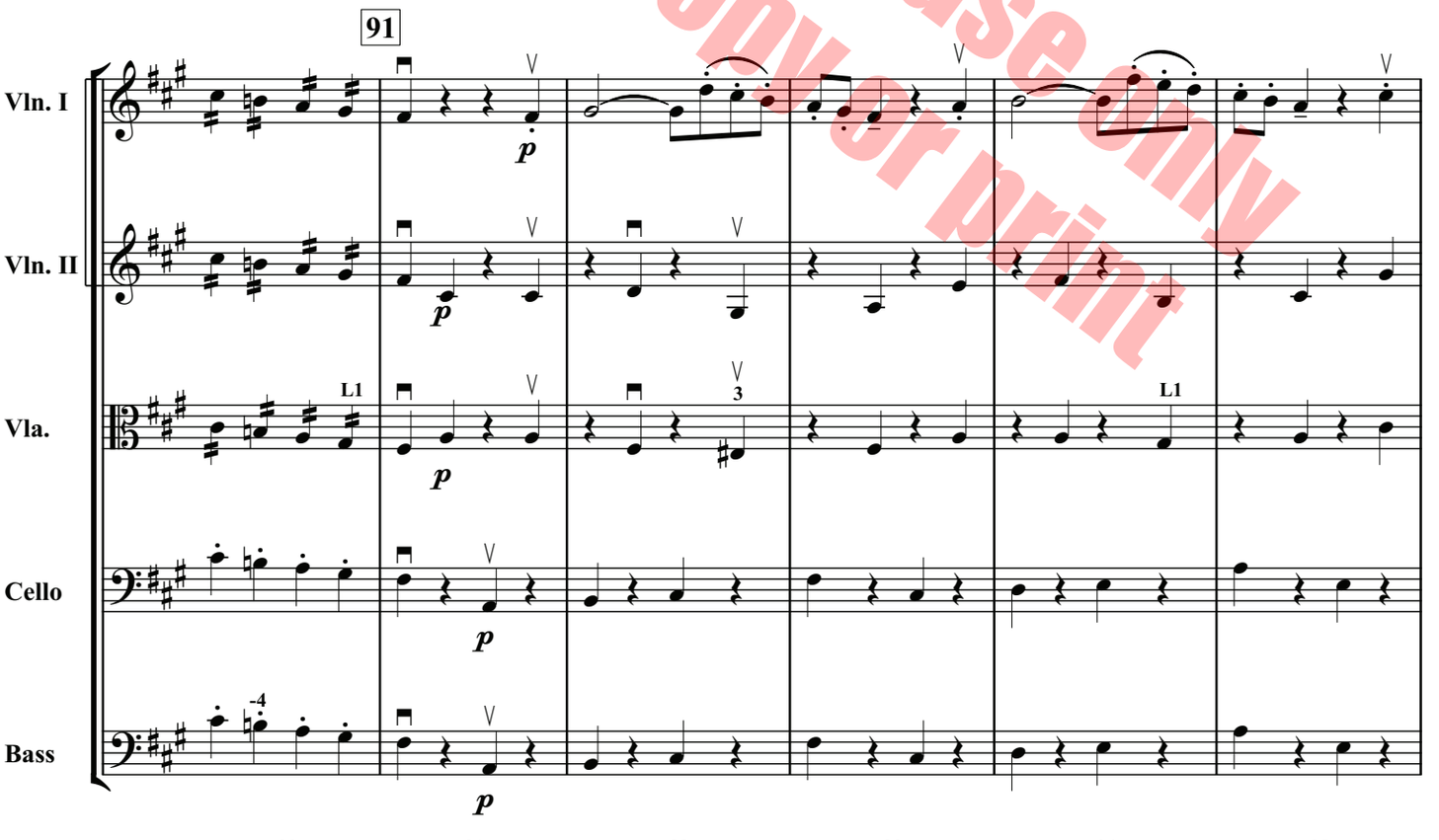




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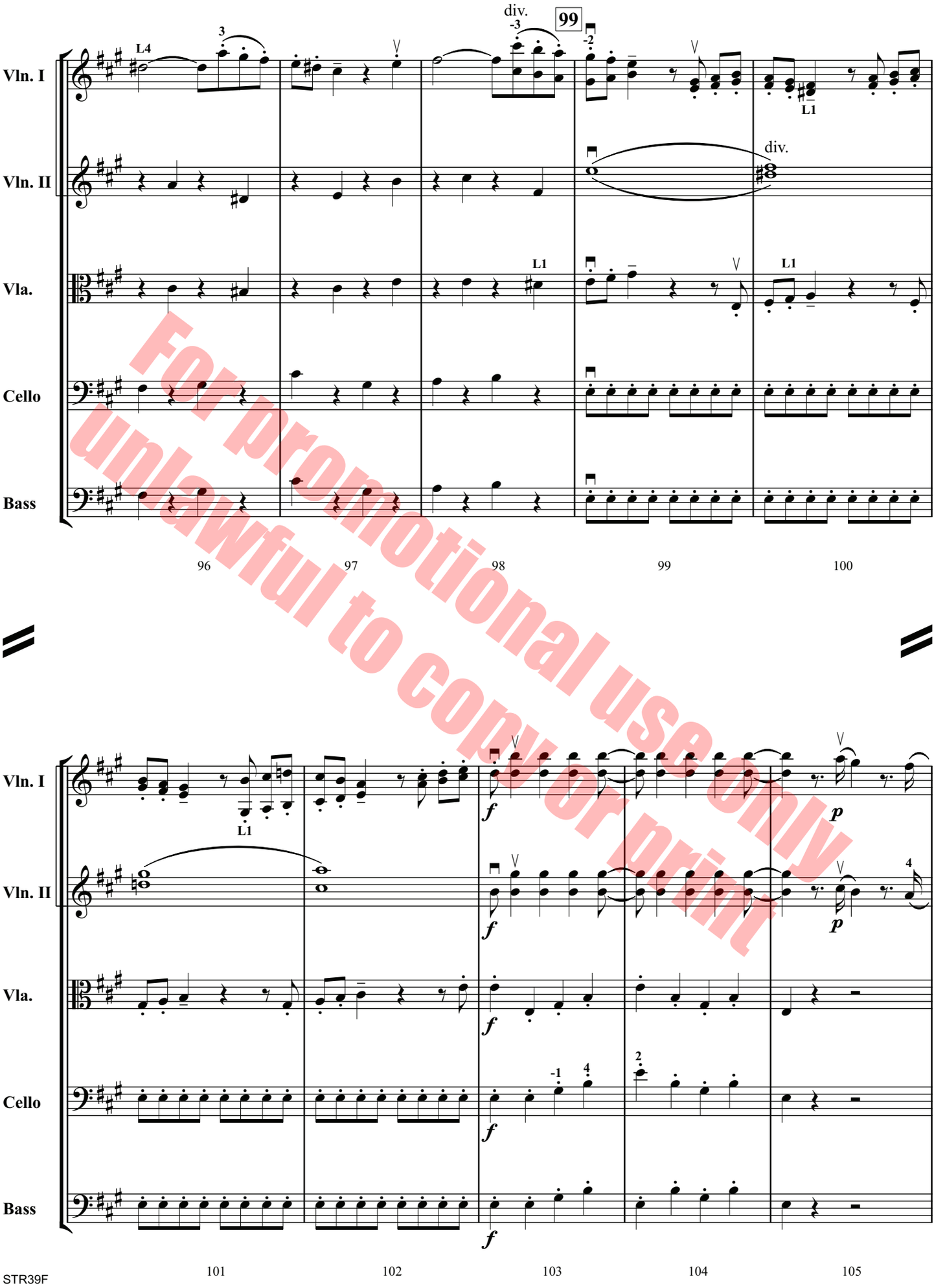


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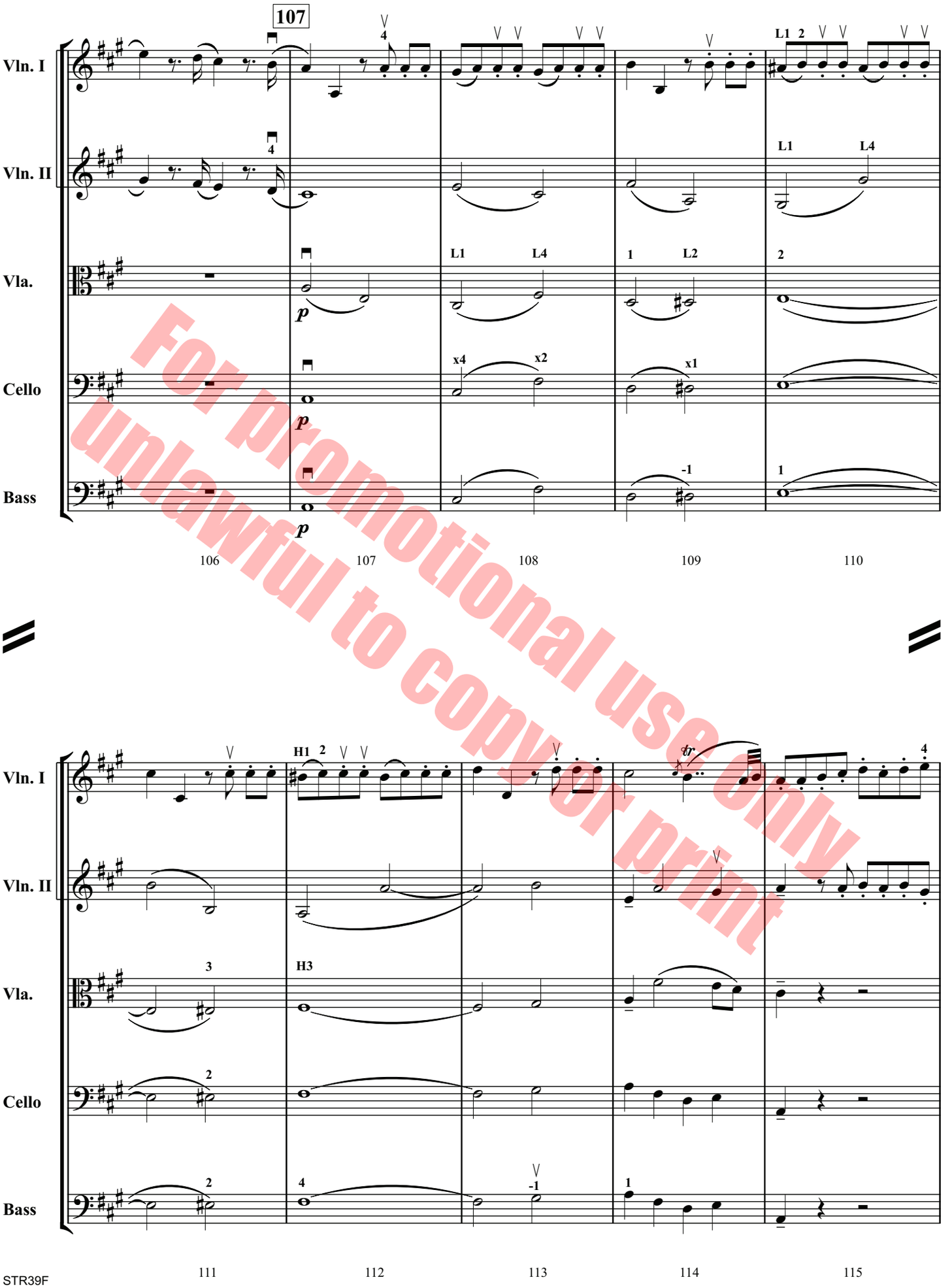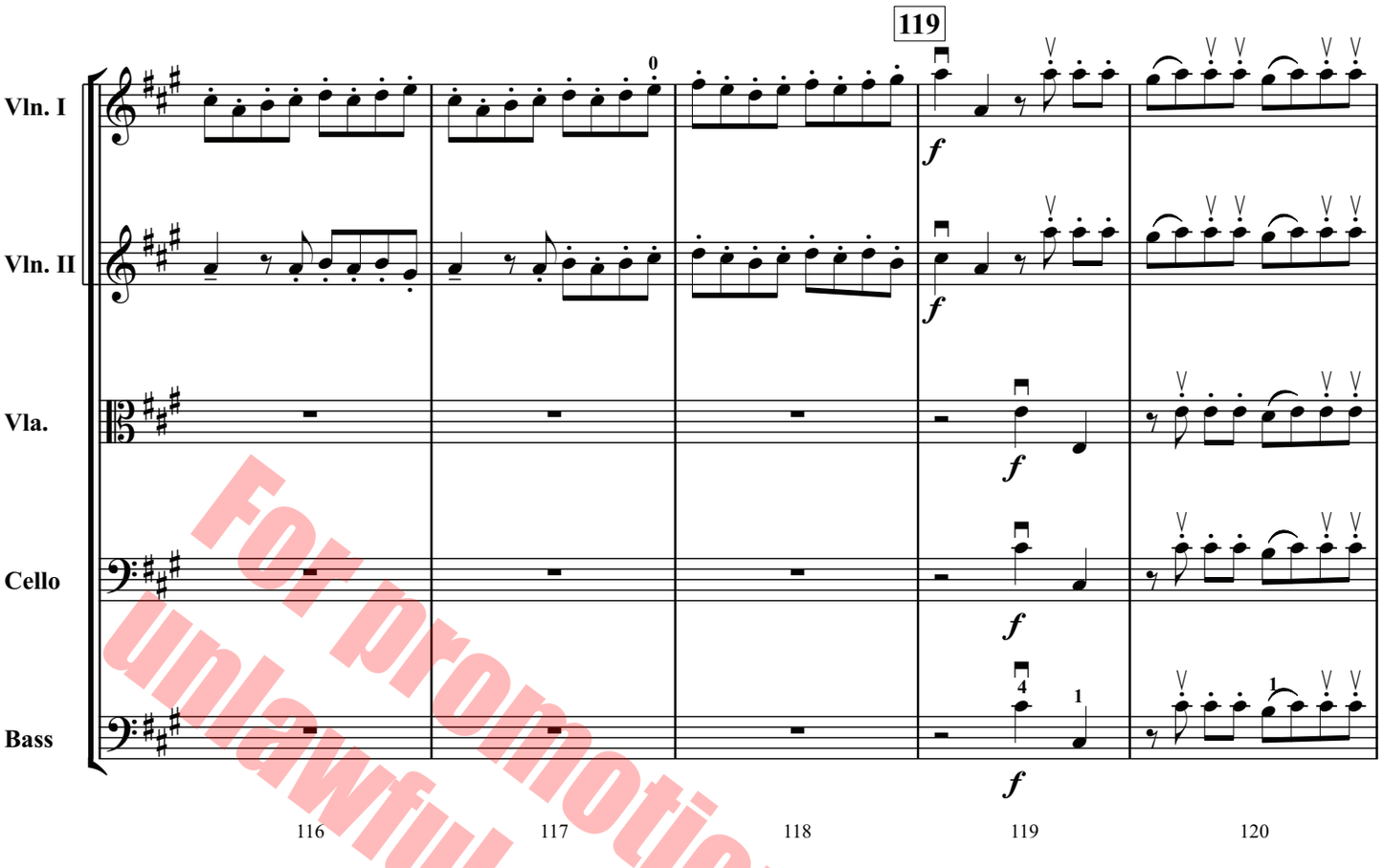




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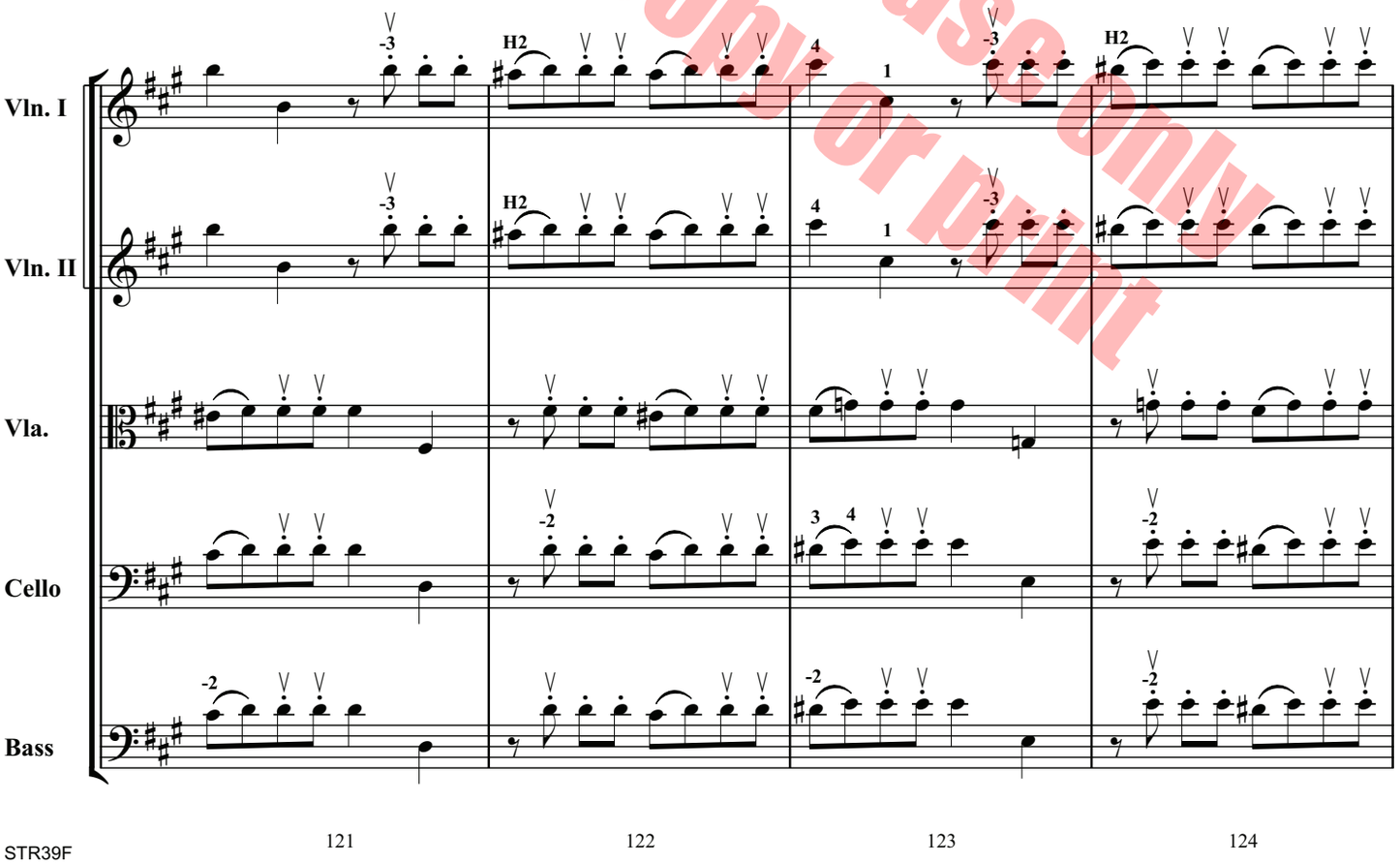


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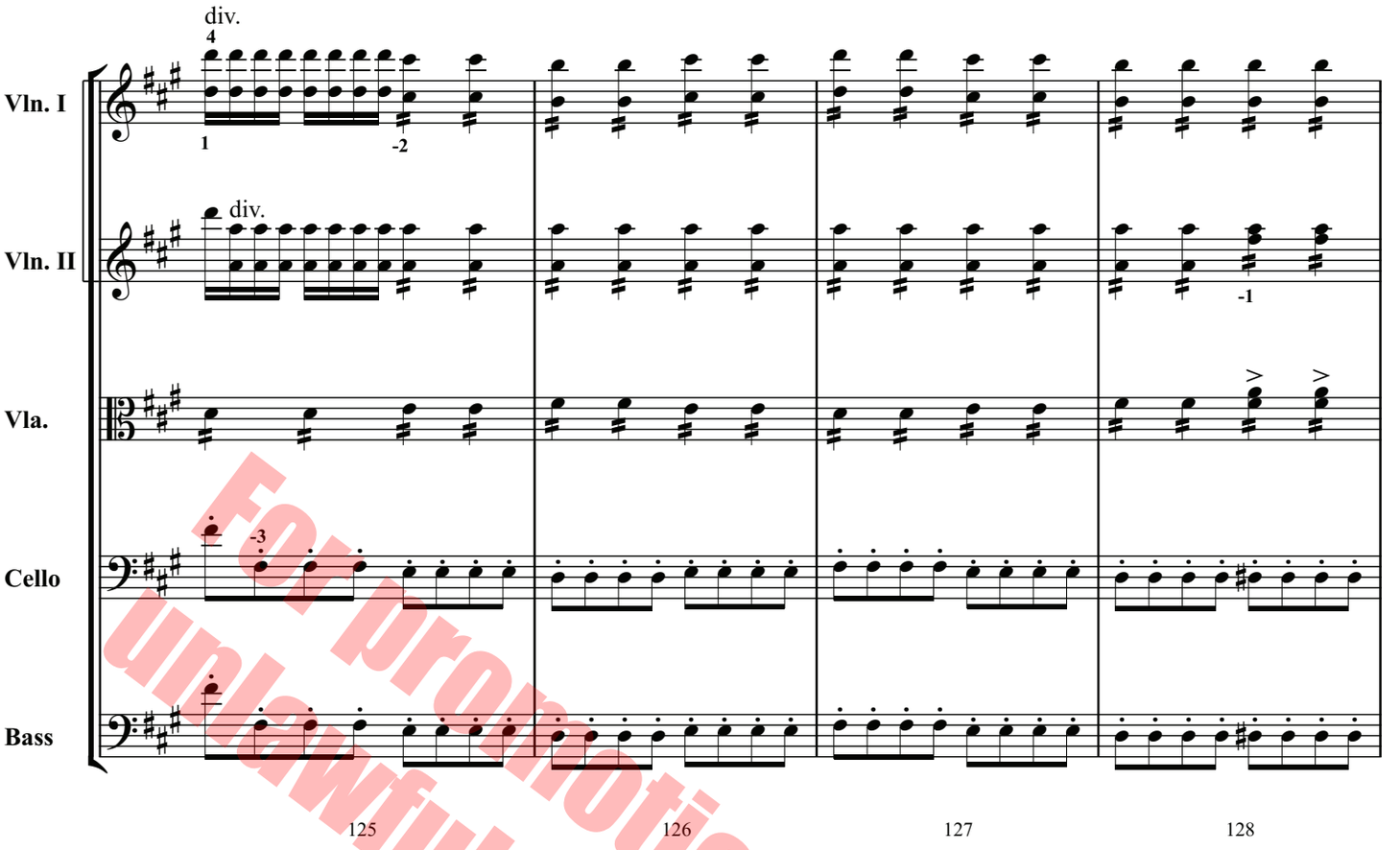


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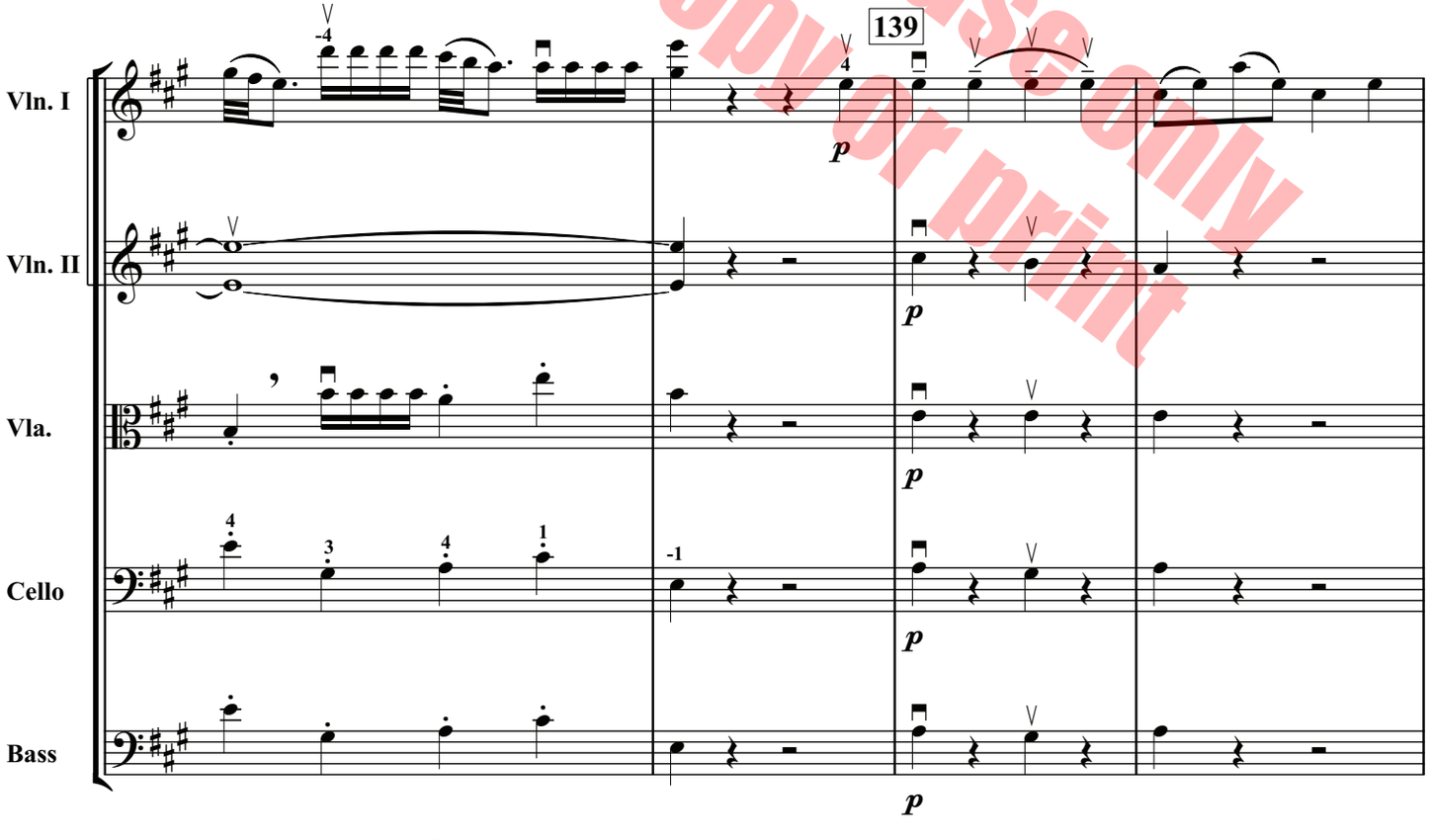




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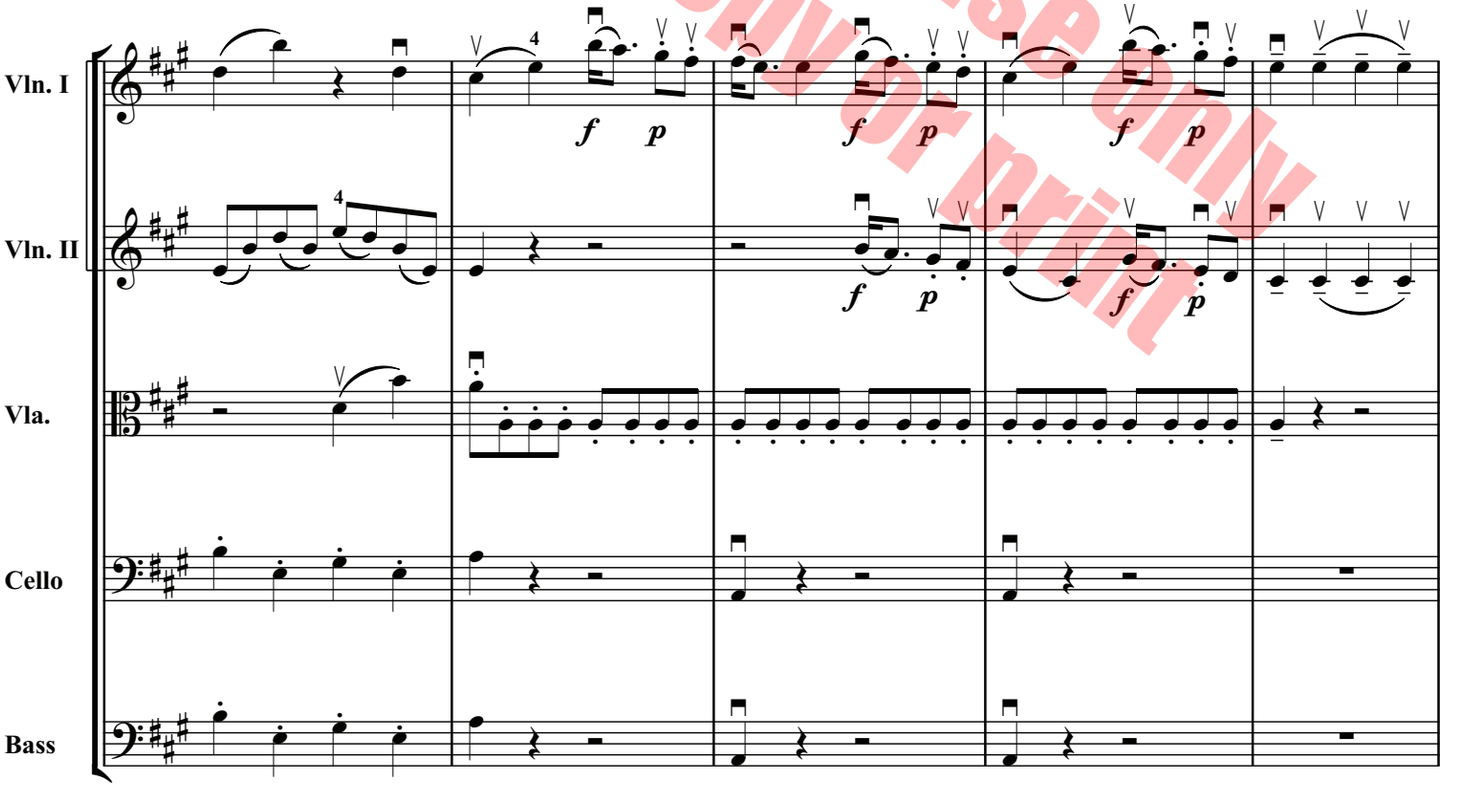




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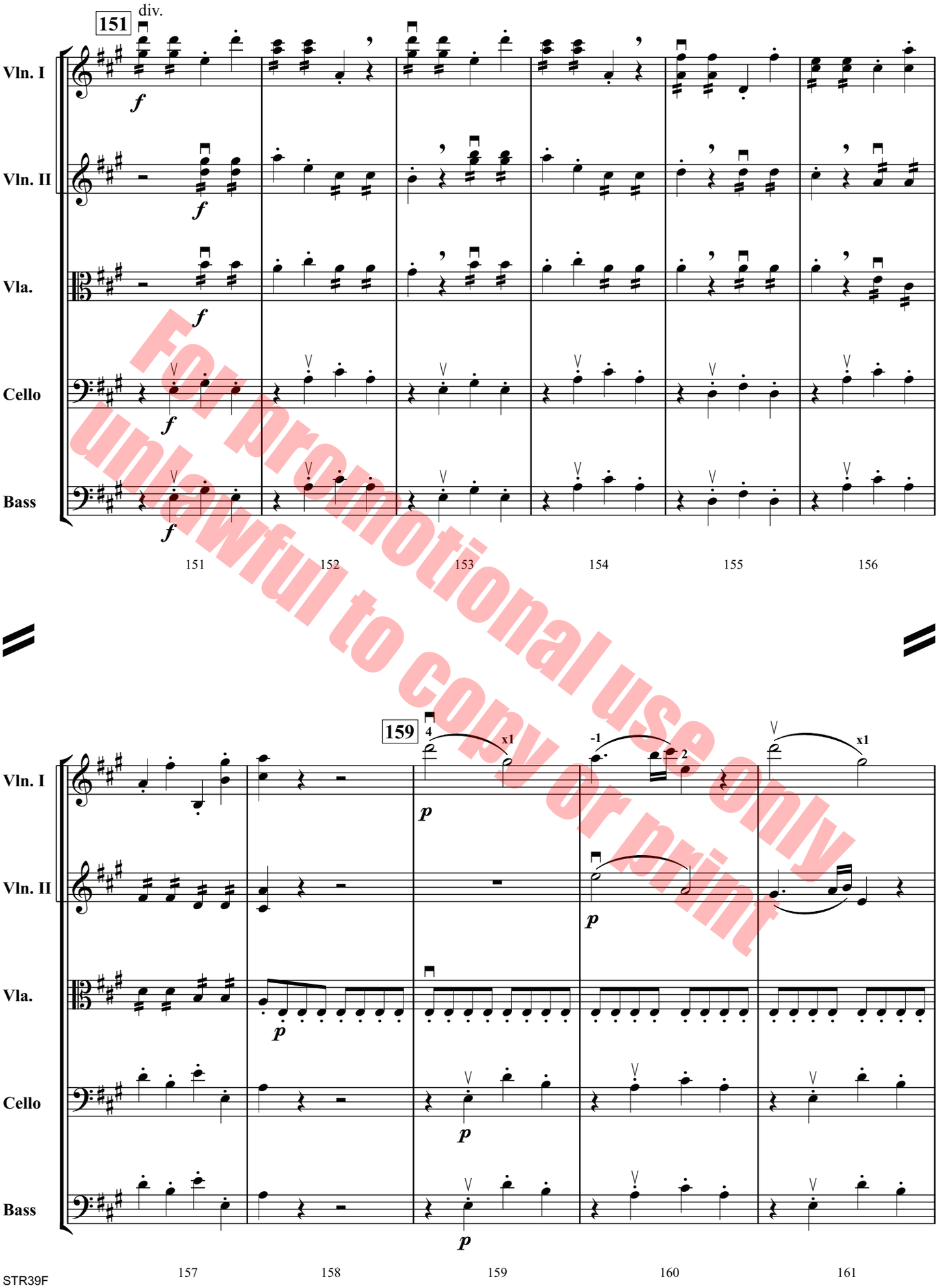




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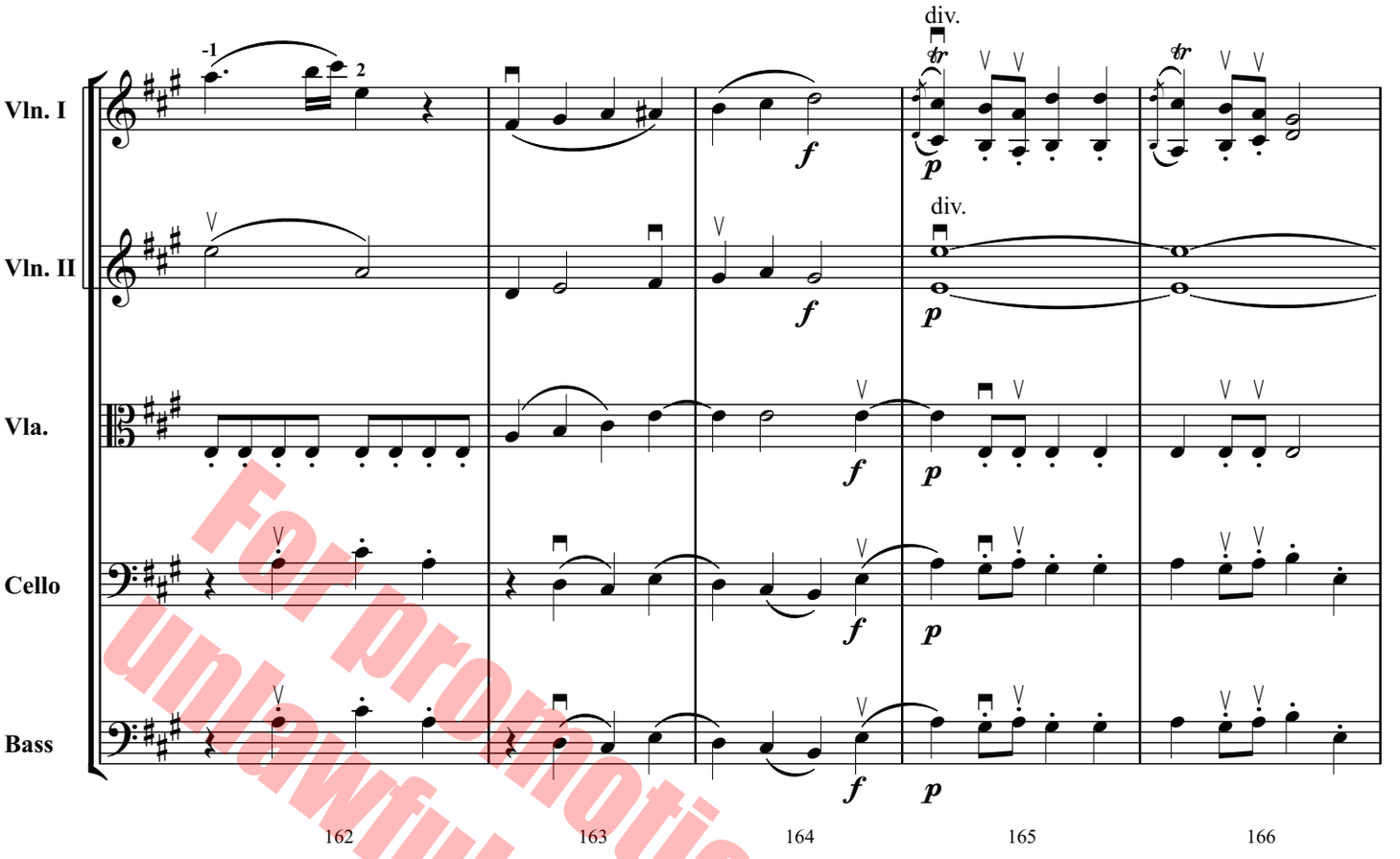




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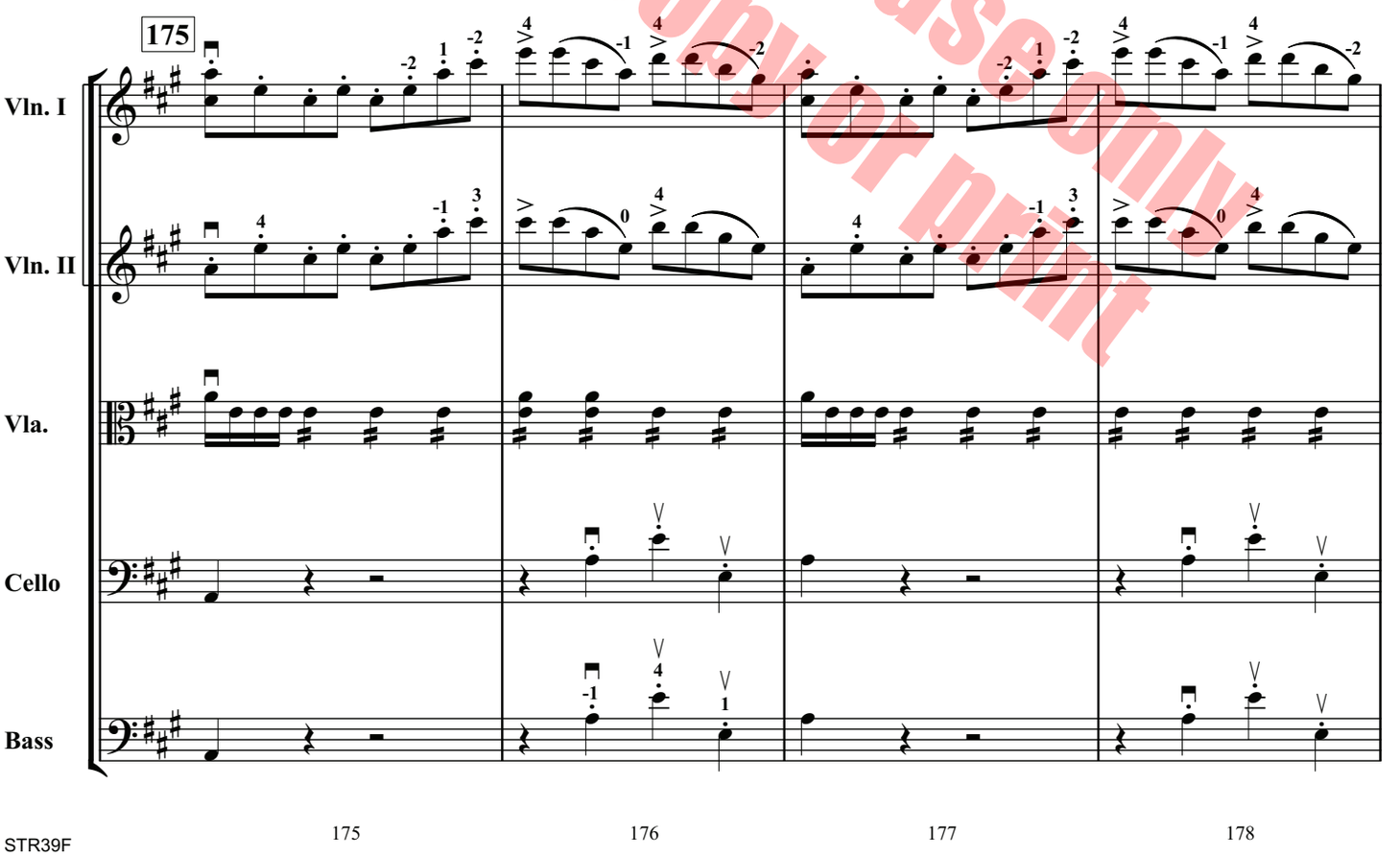


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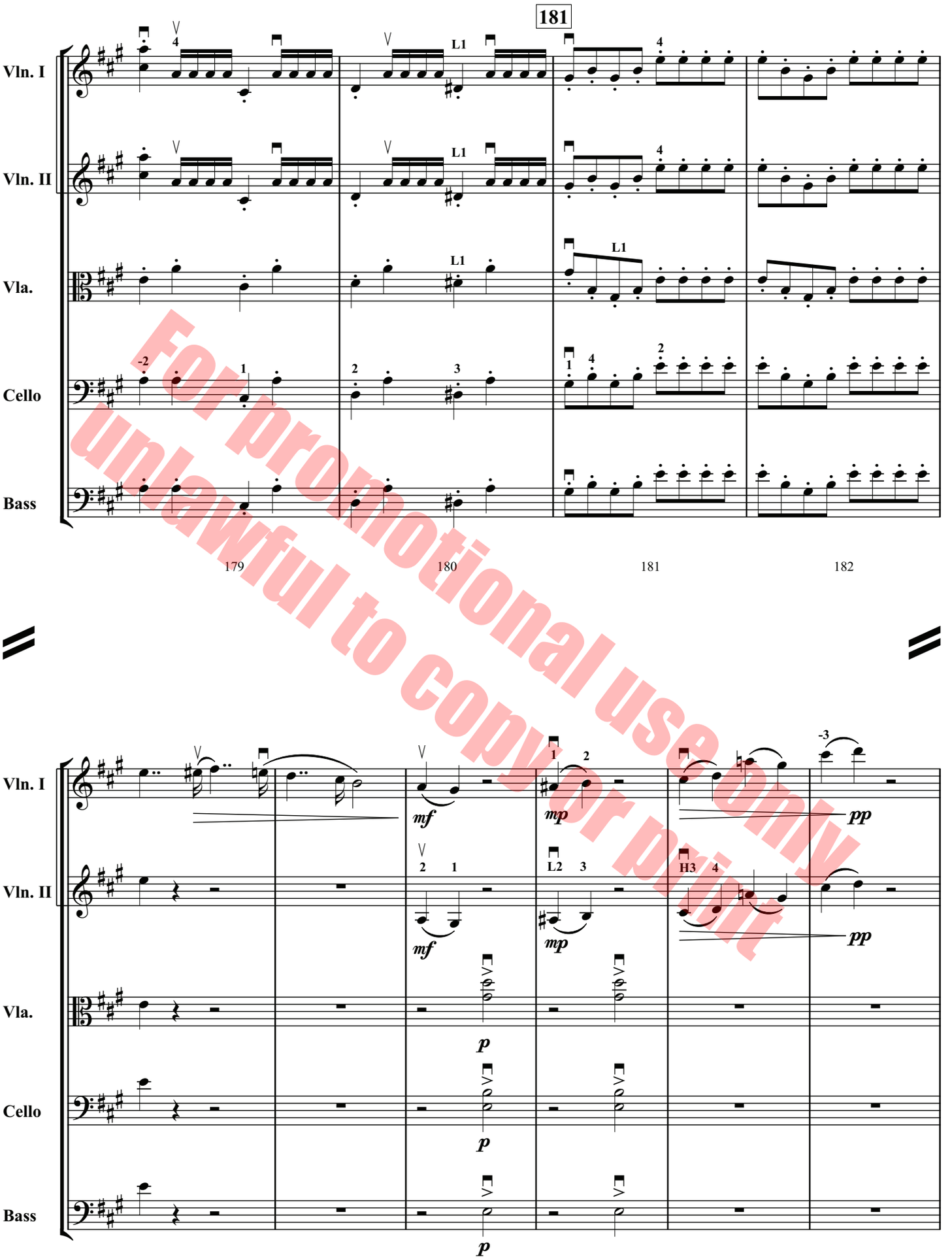




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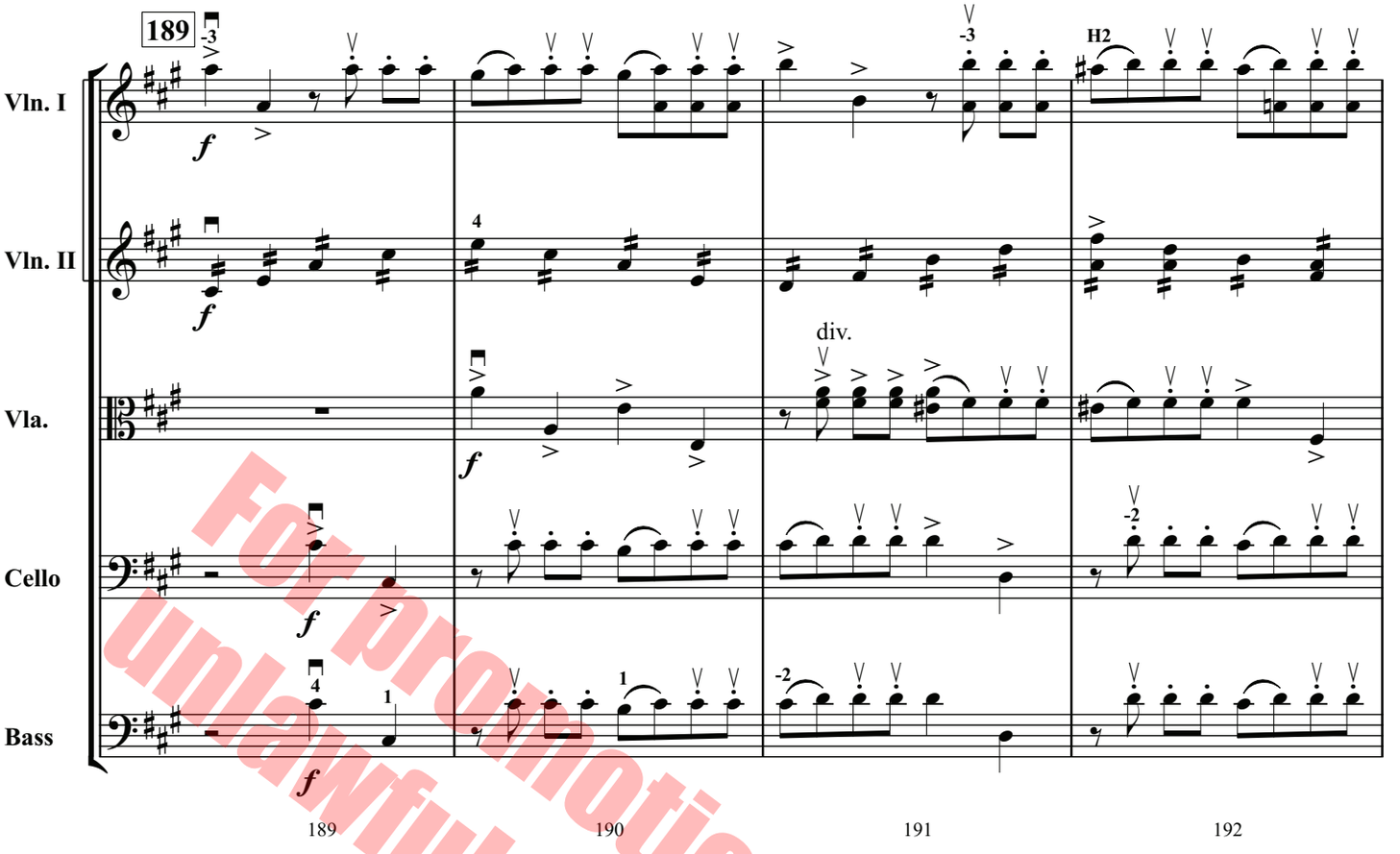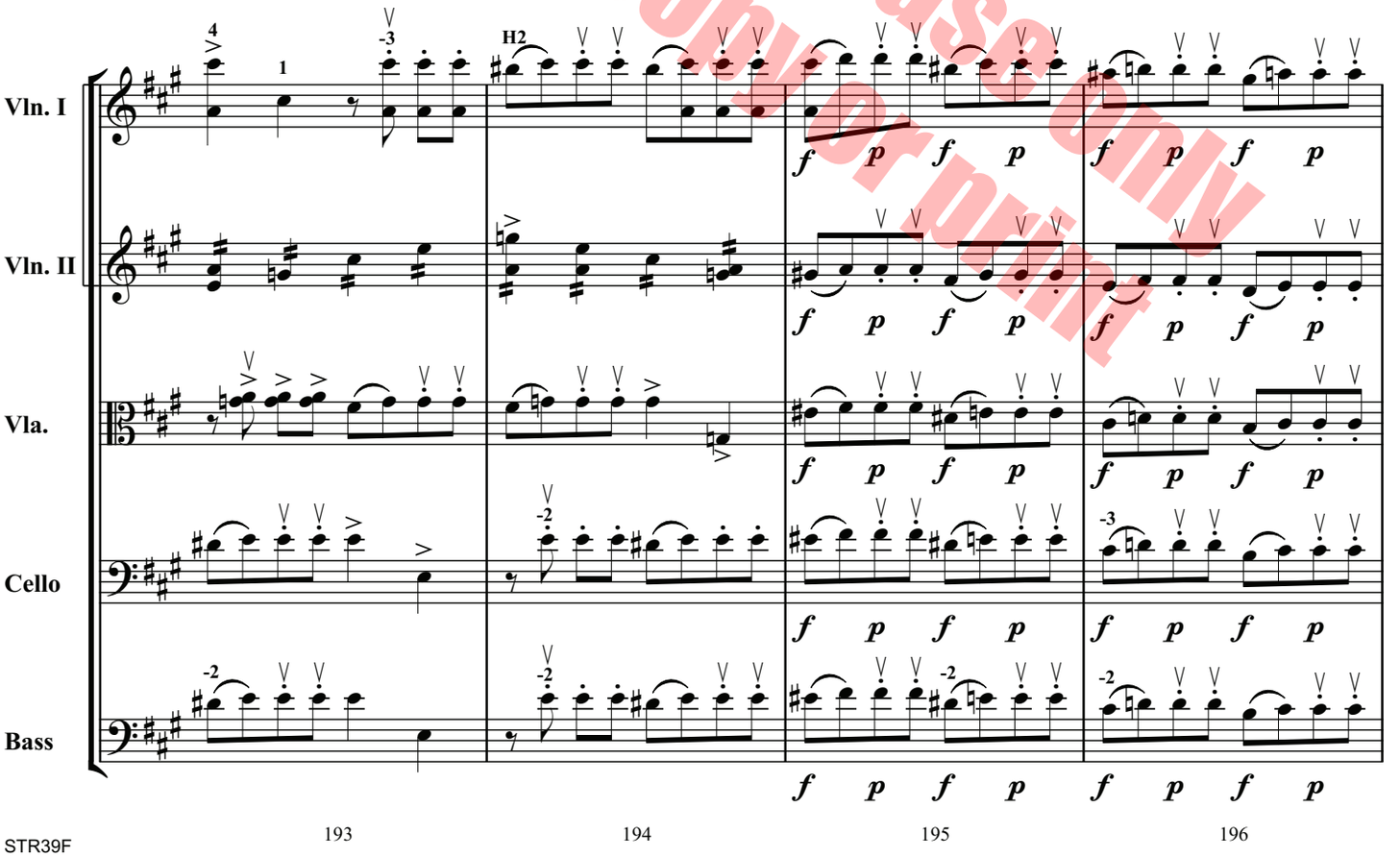




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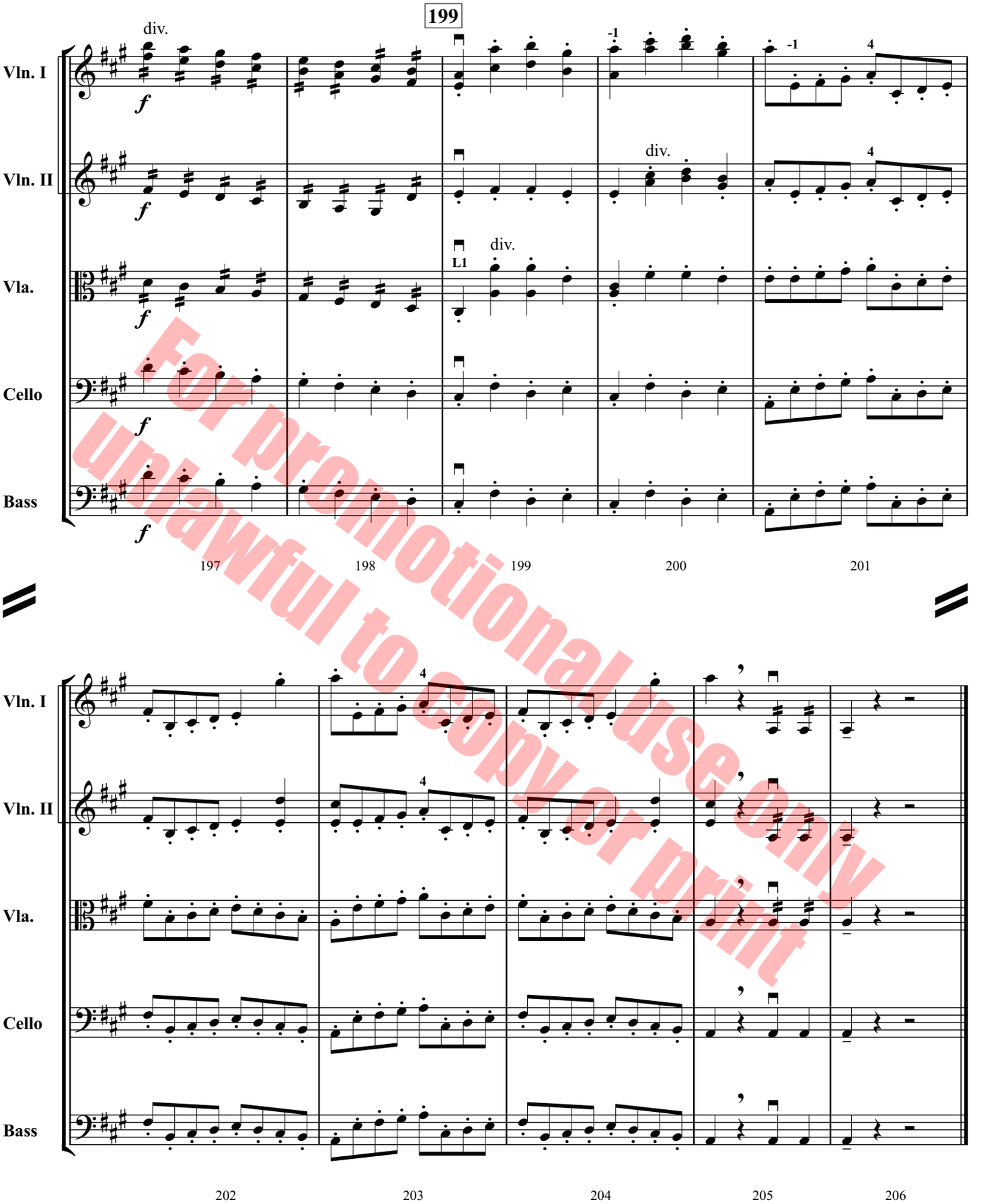


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